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27 Aug 82

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Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

FORM 101-11.206 (120)

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NSC review completed.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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August 20, 1982

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MEMORANDUM FOR

Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: POW/MIA Affairs

Attached for your information is a copy of Judge Clark's July 23, 1982 memorandum to State, Defense and JCS emphasizing the importance of POW/MIA affairs. This is in response to your request.

Michael O. Wheeler
Michael O. Wheeler *don for*
Staff Secretary

Attachment

Tab A Clark memo dated July 23, 1982 on POW/MIA
Affairs

NSC review completed.

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 23, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: POW/MIA Affairs

The events surrounding POW/MIA Recognition Day and the annual meeting of the League of Families have concluded successfully. I appreciate the support and attention given to these activities by the departments. Your efforts are helping to rebuild the trust that had eroded in the past between the government and the families.

Notwithstanding our recent success, various meetings with the families, as well as the Executive Board of the League, revealed several areas where we can improve. POW/MIA affairs remains a personal and institutional priority of the President. Accordingly, he has asked that your Department through the Interagency Group on POW/MIA affairs take appropriate action in the following areas:

Improved DOD Contact with the Next of Kin. It is imperative that the Services maintain current records on family locations of our unaccounted for servicemen and maintain periodic contact. We understand DOD has already directed the services to begin an update of records. We wish to insure this is a priority effort. We are aware of and fully support current DOD efforts to publish a periodic newsletter to the families.

Exploitation of Refugees. Refugees from Indochina have been a primary source of our intelligence. The Board expressed the concern that we are not fully exploiting this source. Request the Interagency Group review our current screening program in Southeast Asia, as well as necessary measures to exploit refugee sources in the United States and Third Countries.

Diplomatic Actions. Request the Interagency Group explore further diplomatic approaches that could be made to the Soviets and other nations in closer contact with the Vietnamese. Consideration should be given to briefing selected countries with a diplomatic or aid relationship with Vietnam, followed by higher level diplomatic requests for their help toward resolution.

Talks with the Lao. The Board was concerned about a lack of high-level contact with the Lao government. In our view, we should again press the Lao to receive a delegation at an appropriate time, despite the turndown of the Armitage mission.


POW/MIA Interdepartmental Group. Many members of the League Board expressed the view that the IG on POW/MIA is not effective. Regardless of any perceived or real substance to the charge, we view the IG to be the most effective forum for interagency coordination on these issues and accordingly ask that the Departments give persistent high-level attention to its functions to insure its effectiveness.

Public Service Announcements (PSA). Request all departments concerned implement through the public affairs channels appropriate PSAs on POW/MIA matters.

Update of National Archives Information. The Board is concerned that DOD and the National Archives are not carrying the same POW/MIA statistics and family information. Such a situation can erode our credibility with the families, as well as the Congress which turns to the Archives for information. Request action be taken to furnish the Archives with current data as well as development of a system to insure changes are received in the future.

Request a status report on our progress in the above areas be forwarded through me to the President, along with any other initiatives undertaken.

FOR THE PRESIDENT:



William P. Clark